

LETTER
 TO THE
 PUBLIC,
 ON THE
 PRESENT POSTURE OF
 AFFAIRS.

K. Ireland.

Justum et tenacem propositi Virum,
 Non Civium ardor prava jubentium,
 Non vultus instantis tyranni
 Mente quatit solida ; neque Auster,
 Dux inquieti turbidus Adriæ :
 Nec fulminantis magna Jovis manus.
 Si fractus illabatur orbis ;
 Impavidum ferient ruinæ Horace Lib. 3. Ode 3.

WITH SOME
 QUÆRIES,
 Humbly offered to their
 CONSIDERATION.

by G. B. Howard

D U B L I N :
 Printed in the YEAR MDCCLIV.



LETTER, &c.

THE many strange Inventions, and surprizing Falshoods, which have been of late advanced, and most improperly asserted, even in Publick, and which have moreover been propagated and dispersed through the whole Kingdom, with the greatest Industry, in the most scandalous Libels that were ever published, have so affected the Minds of all Ranks of People in this Nation, unhappy, only as they are misled, and have raised such a Ferment among them, and so possessed them with such groundless Prejudices, Fears, and Jealousies, that should a Man, out of a real Love to his Country, endeavour to rectify and quiet their Minds, tho' he were to be inspired, and to write with the Pen and Wisdom of *Solomon*, I much fear, there are too many who would not vouchsafe, and some who would not

venture to read; and therefore it is the unprejudiced I chiefly write to, hoping, by the short, plain, but true, Account I shall here give, of the principal Transactions of the present Times, I shall be able to clear up any Doubts, or Difficulties, which from many gross Misrepresentations, and false Reports, may have been raised in their Minds; and not altogether despairing, but that it may yet be of some Use, even to those who are most heated, when they shall come to return to the Use of their Reason.

The first Affair on which a Clamour arose, was the Conduct of Mr. *J——s N———l*. To enter into a Detail of this whole Matter, would take up more Time than it would be necessary to spend in this Paper, as the Examination of it is so recent, and was so publick, and the Whole may be seen in the Journals and Resolutions of the H—e of C——s; all I shall say is, that after as strict and solemn a Scrutiny as ever was made, it was
not

not found that he was guilty of the least dishonest, fraudulent Act, (and if he had, I believe, even those who were most zealous against him, will not say that it would have been either passed by, concealed, or even palliated) it was only found, that he had not as much Knowledge of the Business he undertook, as he ought to have had; that he was imposed upon by the Persons he employed under him; and, that he had not complied with the Orders and Resolutions of the H—e, in the preceding S—s, and for this last Offence he was expelled the H—e, which, I have heard, is a Thing entirely new, and without any former similar Precedent; not that I am urging that Parliaments are to be governed by Precedents in their Proceedings, and especially in extraordinary Cases:—They are the grand Inquest of the Nation.

The next Matter that came in Question, and into high Debate, was the Bill for paying off the national Debt,

and on this also, a prodigious Clamour arose, because it was inserted therein, THAT HIS MAJESTY HAD SIGNIFIED THAT HE WOULD CONSENT THERETO; and no Pains were spared to represent this, upon all Occasions, as an Innovation, as a Court Trick, as a Design to give the Crown a new Prerogative, and to fix a Right in the King to draw out every Six-pence of Money in the Treasury, whensoever he pleased, without being in any Sort accountable for it, and to ruin the Nation. But, I hope, I shall be able to shew, in a very few Words, how groundless, and how false, these Reports, and strange Insinuations are, if Men will but use their Reason, or believe their Senses.

That his Majesty has a private Estate in this Kingdom, in Right of his Crown, was admitted, even by some of the most knowing, and most sanguine, of those in the late Opposition; and there can be no Doubt, but that he has a large and considerable hereditary

ditary Estate in *Ireland*, unappropriated, and which, as a Royal Honourable Trustee, he may dispose of, for the Uses of Government in general, according to his own Discretion, and which by a Pamphlet lately published, entitled, *An Account of such Parts of his Majesty's hereditary Revenue in the Kingdom of Ireland, as are unappropriated*, &c. 2d Edit. appears to amount about £120,864 yearly; but were this private, unappropriated Property, but £5,000 a Year, or any other Sum, and that the Crown hath for many Years, and whilst this Kingdom was in its Infancy, as to Trade and Manufactures, by an Act of Bounty and of the greatest Grace and Favour, suffered it, and still suffers it, to be applied, in Aid of the appropriated Revenues, in defraying the publick Charges and Expences of the State and Government, and to pay the national Debt, it will serve the Purpose of my Argument, to shew, that it is but fair and reasonable that his Maje-

sty's Consent should be had to the disposal of any Redundancy, that may have arisen upon the Whole, and will make the late Opposition appear as improper, as I fear, it was not sufficiently considered. In the Case of a private Person, (as hath been already mentioned) if I am in Partnership with several others, will any Man say that they have a Right, without my Consent, to dispose of, or give away, any Part of the common aggregate Fund? And shall our gracious, bounteous, good Sovereign, be in a worse Condition, as to his Rights, than the lowest of his Subjects?

As to its being an Innovation, I hope the contrary is too well known, to be insisted on; and that similar Precedents are not wanting, both in *England* and in this Kingdom, may appear by a Pamphlet lately published, entitled, *Considerations on the Money Bill*. Nay, in the very last Sessions, a Bill was passed in this Kingdom, in the very same Manner,
and

and with the same Words in it, which are now objected to, and this unnoticed, and unopposed even by those who were most violent against the same Bill in this Sessions; and yet to shew how strangely the People are led astray, and how grossly they are imposed upon, it was insinuated, nay, it was industriously reported every where, and affirmed, that it was opposed, but that Promises had been made, and Assurances given, that if it was but suffered to pass at that Time, it should never be again attempted, or any Precedent made of it: But, if such Assurances, and such Promises, were really made and given, why were they not proved, when they were denied in the most publick Manner by those who were charged with them, and in the Presence of those to whom it was said they were made and given? Did not their Silence upon this Occasion, when called upon, prove to a Demonstration, (as the Truth is) that such Reports were as false, as they were

were disingenuous? But, if Men will neither use their Reason, or their Judgment; if they will neither see with their Eyes, nor hear with their Ears, they are not to be convinced, though the *Confirmations were as strong as Proofs of Holy Writ.*

Now, as to its being a Court Trick, or a Design to give the Crown a new Prerogative, or a Right that it had not before, and to ruin the Nation, (nay, much harsher Language, and Terms far more severe, were mentioned upon this Occasion, than I care to repeat, and which, I could wish, were to sleep in eternal Oblivion,) let them but consider, that by the very immediate following Words, his Majesty “ recommends to the Parliament, “ the Application of the Money, to “ the Payment of the National Debt, “ or such Part thereof as should be “ thought expedient by Parliament.” And sure, if he had the least Share in the aggregate Fund, he had a Right that his Consent should be had to the
Disposal

Disposal of it; and nothing was more fair and reasonable. And therefore, if he had this Right before, (which I believe cannot be doubted, if it be admitted that he had any private Estate in this Kingdom, be it ever so small,) this Consent being inserted in the Act, though it may in some Sort serve to explain or manifest his Right, it never can from any Deduction of Reason, be construed to create a Right; and I believe no Church of *England* Man will deny, but that the Rights and Prerogatives of the Crown, are to be held as sacred and inviolable, as the Rights and Privileges of the People.

But, besides, have not the most solemn Assurances been given, and in the most publick Manner, and by those, who, it must be presumed, from their Situations and Stations in Life, must be no Strangers to his Majesty's Royal Intentions, and who, it cannot reasonably be conceived, would, in his sacred Name, affirm any Thing in the least contrary to the strictest Truth

Truth, that his Majesty had no Design in inserting these Words, to the Prejudice of the Kingdom, or his People, but to preserve that Right which was, and is as much his, as it is the Right of every private Man in his Dominions that his Consent should be had to the Disposal of any Part of a common Fund in which he has a Share ; and, if ever the Royal Word of a King was to be believed, I think our gracious Sovereign has an eminent Right to our greatest Confidence : He has now reigned over us near Twenty-seven Years, and may he reign for many more ; and can the meanest of his Subjects in the whole Course of his glorious Reign, charge him with any Act which in the least favoured of Breach of Contract, of Tyranny, Oppression, or Wrong ? And in all his Dominions, he has not Subjects who have shewn themselves more sensible of his kind Protection, and the many Blessings they enjoy under his auspicious Reign, than his faithful
 People

People of *Ireland*. May God preserve them from the Artifices of their Enemies, and from ever being misled by them, from a true Sense of the inestimable Benefits they daily receive from the gentle Hand that rules them!

Let us consider, that in the present, unhappy, groundless Disputes, Protestants are divided against Protestants; nay, even we of the established Church are in Enmity together: Now, though I am far from being so uncharitable as to believe, that a Religion so gentle, so indulgent, and so kind, as we from our Principles are taught to be, and as we always have been to every other Religion whatsoever, can be surrounded with such Numbers (as Incendiaries would insinuate) who are not as much our Friends as we deserve, not only among those who are of a different Persuasion, but even among the other Sects of the reformed Religion; yet, I believe it must be allowed on all Hands, that a House divided against itself can
never

never possibly stand, and that we (as all other Religions do) should live together in Unity and Love; that it is agreeable to all the Rules of Policy and Prudence that we should do so, and not lessen our own Strength, by such strange Divisions as have of late arisen among us, without the least Colour of a real Foundation.

Have not his Majesty's faithful, loyal Subjects of *Ireland*, always hitherto gloried in convincing him, that he has not in any of his Dominions, more faithful and more loyal Subjects? And shall any of us now suffer ourselves to be led away by the Artifices of self-interested or dissatisfied Men, to give our good and gracious Sovereign the least Room to Question our Attachments to him, or to doubt of our Sincerity.

A certain late Author, called, *Anthony Litton*, or the *Cork Surgeon*, in his first Number of his *Antidote against the Dublin Apothecary's Poison*, Page 11, says, "that a seditious
" Man

“ Man cannot be a good Subject.”
 And further, says he, speaking of the
 People of *Ireland*, in a Sort of Fer-
 vency peculiar to his Manner of Wri-
 ting, “ Who then are the Favourites
 “ to the King and People of *England*?
 “ We surely stand foremost in the
 “ List. Let us hold this Favour by
 “ deserving it ; and then we shall
 “ discourage all treasonable or sedi-
 “ tious Practices, and spurn at all
 “ Fomentors of Discord and Division
 “ amongst us.” How then has this
 great Genius since acted ? or has he since
 wrote in any Sort in Contradiction to
 these just and glorious Tenets ? Again,
 says he, in Page 7 of the second Num-
 ber, “ We have, by our wise Sub-
 “ mission, convinced *England* that
 “ we are her Children, and look
 “ upon her with the respectful Eye
 “ of her own Offspring ; and by this
 “ becoming Carriage, have won to
 “ us her Affection, and she takes
 “ Pleasure in nourishing, strengthen-
 “ ing, and enriching us. When any
 “ little

“ little Discontent has arisen, which
 “ might interrupt that Affection, so
 “ necessary indeed to the well-being
 “ of both, but inseparable from ours,
 “ the Prince and his Ministers have
 “ ever interposed, and used their good
 “ Offices, to prevent a Breach being
 “ made, which would be hurtful to
 “ *England*, but ruinous to us. And
 “ whoever attempts to weaken the
 “ Power of that Mediation, cuts away
 “ our Sheet-Anchor, and leaves us
 “ exposed to the Mercy of furious
 “ Storms, and a turbulent Sea, and
 “ the Danger of being dashed to Pie-
 “ ces upon Rocks. Yet this does
 “ this vile Incendiary, by provoking
 “ the People of *England* wantonly
 “ and unnecessarily, in disputing a
 “ Sovereignty which they are in Pos-
 “ session of, and able to hold, and
 “ doubtless resolved so to do, and
 “ setting up an Interest in their King
 “ distinct from that of *Britain* ;
 “ Cause, of itself, sufficient to under-
 “ mine the Authority of the King
 “ and

“ and his Ministers, if they could be
 “ persuaded to be Parties in such an
 “ absurd Scheme.—But his are not
 “ the Principles of *Irish* Protestants.
 “ —And to convince my Country-
 “ men that they ought not to be, I
 “ will shew them the Absurdity, and
 “ the Danger of them, and the Be-
 “ nefit we receive from our Depen-
 “ dancy on *England*; and the infi-
 “ nite Loss, nay, the total Ruin that
 “ must follow an Independancy, such
 “ as *Charles Lucas* would establish.—
 “ But that which is worse even than
 “ this pernicious Doctrine, if any
 “ Thing can be worse, is the abusive,
 “ scurrilous, provoking Manner, in
 “ which he treats not only his main
 “ Subject, but even every Thing that
 “ relates to *England*, which no Words
 “ can express but his own.”

And again, in Page 8, he says,
 “ That his present Majesty's Reign is
 “ a Season in which there have been
 “ some of the greatest Statesmen that
 “ *England*, or any other Country,

“ ever produced ; and Viceroys of
 “ this Kingdom, by whom we have
 “ been promised from the Throne,
 “ that we should be represented to
 “ his Majesty, at their Return to his
 “ Royal Presence, in the Manner we
 “ deserved ; and those of them who
 “ returned to us, assured us, they ex-
 “ ecuted what they promised. In-
 “ deed, we are convinced they did
 “ not deceive us ; for we feel the Be-
 “ nefit of our King’s thoroughly
 “ knowing the true State and Condi-
 “ tion of this Country. What else
 “ could induce his Majesty to give
 “ his Royal Bounty to the *Incorpo-*
 “ *rated Society*, or that uncommon
 “ Instance of his Generosity, and fa-
 “ vour to the *Dublin Society* ? These
 “ are illustrious Proofs that the
 “ Throne is surrounded by our
 “ Friends ; who, though they are
 “ called Enemies, fierce and insatia-
 “ ble Ravagers, nay, worse than Step-
 “ Fathers, are too good to suffer their
 “ private Resentment, for the ill
 “ Manners,

“ Manners, Falshood and Virulence,
 “ of one factious Citizen, to smother
 “ their Benevolence to a grateful Na-
 “ tion.”

There are many other Matters in the seven Numbers of these Papers, which would be too tedious to set down at present, therefore I shall refer my Readers to the perusal of them. — Now, that a Person, who has wrote so excellently well, and with such Truth and Justice, on so interesting a Subject, should be capable (as has been publickly insinuated) of attempting to inflame the very same People, in so short a Time, with any Sentiments in the least contrary to any of these; or have any Hand in the strange Productions, which are daily published in this City, so contradictory, and so much opposite to many of the Matters I have here quoted, and the many former Writings of this excellent Author, I cannot be brought to think, that there is upon the Face of the Earth, a Man of such extraordinary

dinary Abilities, with a Heart so disingenuous, and so abandoned a Pen.

There is nothing more true, than that we owe many of the Blessings which we now enjoy, to the friendly, kind, and gracious Mediations of several Viceroy's, with whose Presence his Majesty has been pleased to honour us; but the greatest Blessing which this same Author hath mentioned in his second Number, was poured upon us in the Administration, and through the Mediation and favourable Interposition of that Nobleman, who is our present Governor. I mean his Majesty's Royal Charter, for Incorporating the Society for promoting *English* Protestant Working Schools, in *Ireland*; and at the same Time his Grace gave a handsome Bounty to the Society. And if I mistake not, his Majesty also, in a Time of the present Administration, shewed some Grace and Favour to the *Dublin* Society, for which, and for all his other Bounties, I hope we shall always shew ourselves

ourselves a grateful People ; and that we are worthy of the inestimable Benefits of so great, so generous, and so good a King and Benefactor, and so kind and friendly a Governor and Mediator, and not suffer ourselves to be misled, by those who have been most industrious to deceive us, nor let the infectious Breath of every scurrilous, poisoned Libeller, unjustly blast the fair Repute of well known, honest, virtuous Men.

But to return, what is still more astonishing, no Man is to make any use of either the Reason, or the Judgment he is Master of, and if upon any Occasion he differs in Opinion with the Opposition, or votes contrary to their Dictates, let them appear to him never so absurd or false, he is instantly declared an Enemy to his Country, has been bribed with Preferments, corrupted by Pensions, or amused with Promises ; nay, I have also heard, that the open friendly Speeches, which Men have made in a
 † general

general Way, over their Cups, when their Hearts have flowed with Love and Kindness to each other, have been laid hold upon, and construed into party Promises (ever improper to be made, and as improper to be accepted of, or insisted upon) Promises, of which the honest, open hearted Man, had never harboured the least Thought, nay, which are relative to Matters, which were not even under Contemplation at the Time.—If this be true, is it not contrary to all the Rules of Honour, Hospitality and Sociableness?

Then, it is said, that an extraordinary and superior Virtue has been shewn by many, in the Refusal of Bribes; such Virtue, as was worthy of a *Fabius*, a *Decius*, or a *Cincinnatus*; but why were not all these Offers and Temptations proved, when in the Presence of those to whom it was said they were made, and of the whole Nation, these noble minded, virtuous Souls were called upon? I will venture

ture to say, that could it have been proved, it would have been gloried in.

And then to terrify all those, who have ventured in this Tempest, to consult their Judgments, there are the most surprizing and unprecedented Declarations published every Day, as if sent from several Counties and Corporations in the Kingdom, threatening to return none but those who, right or wrong, shall vote against the Court, and all its Schemes, as it is termed; for this is the Language, and the true Sense of all these virulent Papers. If this be Liberty, it is Liberty to be chained to a Galley, to work at an Oar, for the Slavery of the Body is a State of Ease and Happiness to a Restraint on the Mind; and in this Condition must every future Representative be, who is to be denied the Use of either Reason, Will, or Judgment.

I believe I may with great Safety say, that there never was a Matter debated in our H—e of C——s, of greater

greater, real Difficulty, and of such Importance, as was the last Question, the understanding of it depended upon a thorough Knowledge of the Constitution, and the several Revenues of this Kingdom, which, I am sorry to say, but few here make it their Business, in any Sort, to be acquainted with. It is otherwise in *England*; for, I do believe, that several of the youngest Men in Parliament there, are equal in Wisdom even to any of the renowned Senate of *Rome*; and yet, I should be sorry to think, that any Man on either Side of the Question, was not instructed as fully as he could be, in the Nature and Knowledge of that Question, which, on both Sides, was allowed to be of the highest Importance that was ever brought before their House, before he gave his Vote; for, by this Bill, the National Debt was to be paid, and the National Credit was in Question.

Of all human Virtues, there is none so noble, and of such true Estimation,

as a sincere and real Love for their Country ; but if there be any uncommon or exemplary Punishment in a future State, it must be for that Man, (if such there be) who, under the Appearance of this heavenly Virtue, but from Ambition, or to serve his own private Ends, or from Dissatisfaction or Disgust, or from any wrong, improper, or unjustifiable Views, shall inflame and disturb the Minds of an innocent People, by Misrepresentations, and by such low, scandalous, false, and infamous Libels, as are a Disgrace to human Nature, many of which would even make the most abandoned blush to read ; and by alarming them with the Fears of Evils which have no Existence, and of which they never would themselves have thought, to the manifest Prejudice of all Trade and Industry, besides filling the Hearts of honest Men with Burnings, Jealousies, and Rancour, to-

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wards

wards each other, and creating Differences and Animosities between the nearest Relations, and most intimate Friends, perhaps never to be healed or eradicated, though in Sense and Reason, there be not the least Foundation for any of them.—

Are not these Incendiaries answerable for all the Consequences? And what Horrors must they not feel on this Occasion? For no Man can deceive himself, as to his real Views and Motives in every Thing he undertakes; and be assured, my Fellow-Subjects, there cannot be a more atrocious Crime, than to court a popular Applause at the Expence of Truth, and by misleading the People.

I should be very sorry, that there should be any among us, whom no Demonstration can satisfy, nor Proof convince. However, as there is not any Thing which contributes more to the Peace and Happiness of every Society,

Society, than that there should be a mutual, constant Confidence and Harmony between those who govern, and those who are governed; and as any Attempt to destroy either the one, or the other, of these most necessary Ingredients to the Preservation of the Body Politick, must tend to the Destruction of the Whole, I do therefore entreat that my Fellow-Subjects will be most cautious in crediting any Reports of this Tendency, without examining well the Nature of them, and the Probability of their being true; and will also consider, that there has been a very recent Instance, where, as heavy a Charge on Government as could have been suggested or invented, no less than a Design to ruin us, (as it was termed) has been proved to have been a gross Mistake, and that, in the most publick Manner, even to a Demonstration beyond the least Possibility of Contradiction or Doubt:

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I mean

I mean that Story*, so unjustly raised in this Kingdom, and which so long, and so strangely gained so general a Credit, that an Attempt was made by the Government here, in a Time of the present Administration, to have the additional Duties continued for 21 Years, in order (as it has been often said, and long believed) to render future Parliaments in this Kingdom unnecessary, or at least of little use.—O, unhappy Mortals! that the Lot of human Nature hath not sufficient in its Store of real Evils, but that our Fancies must be set at Work, to frame imaginary ones,

The Removal of some Persons, who had Employments and Pensions from the Crown, has made a mighty Noise in this Kingdom: Pray, has not the same Thing been often done, without the least Alarm, in another Kingdom, who, I believe, think they have as much Liberty, as we

* The whole Account of this Transaction is fully set forth, in the 5th Number of the Cork Surgeon.

we can ever pretend to? Shall a King, in this Case, be in a worse Condition than a Subject, who may, without Offence to any other, dismiss from his Service, and withdraw his Bounty from any of his Servants, or Dependants, who he shall think have forfeited his Favour, nay, who have even questioned his Right to the very Fund, from which his Bounty flowed to them?

Now, upon the Whole, I am in Hopes, that the present Flame, which has been so strangely blown up, and which has too long, unhappily, and unreasonably existed, will yet subside, and Men return to the Use and Exercise of Reason, and of their own Judgments: And certain I am, if once they come to examine coolly and dispassionately, into the several Matters of which I have here treated, and shall see them in their proper Colours, they will then find, that Mr. N—/ has not been censured
for

for any Thing, which might not have happened to the best, I will not say to the most prudent, of Men. That the B—l which was thrown out this S—s, because it was inserted therein, *that his Majesty had consented to the Application of the Money in the Treasury to the Payment of the national Debt,* was opposed, not upon account of the Matter of Right, (for this, as I have said before, was admitted even by those who knew it best, and were most sanguine) but because it was thought by some, to be unnecessary, and improper. And when honest Men, who are at present ignorant of these Matters of Difficulty, and are, without any Cause, so unreasonably disturbed, shall come to find that our unhappy Disputes have been, not about Essentials, but merely upon Forms and Ceremonies, and which, had the Consequences been foreseen, would not (I am inclined to believe) have been

been insisted upon, by Men of known Integrity of Heart, and of such superior Abilities, as some of the Majority, are on every Hand, allowed to have; and when my fellow Subjects shall find, how greatly they have been deceived, and how much they have been misled by some, who make it their daily Business, to enrage and inflame them; and shall be satisfied, that the smallest Attempt has not been made to injure them, in the least Respect, as to their Rights and Priviledges, they will then be sorry for their unreasonable Heats, and will abhor and despise the Authors of their groundless Troubles, more than ever they revered or honoured them.—And when our gracious Sovereign shall find, that his Right was not really in the least disputed, by those of the Majority, who understood it best, and that their Objection was, only to the Propriety of the Bill, and that

that several, from not understanding this Distinction, have been misled, and have erred in their Judgments, I hope his Majesty will, out of his wonted Grace and Goodness, make Allowances for any Indiscretions, which the best of Subjects in such Cases, and from mistaken Causes, might unknowingly, and undesignedly have committed; and consider that, *the wisest and the best may Err.*

Some QUERIES, humbly offered to the Consideration of the Publick.

IS there any Thing in this World of more inestimable real Value, than a good Character?

Is it not for the Benefit of Society, that this Worth and Value should be put upon the good Name of a Man, and that Virtue should ever be revered?

Can

Can there then be a more unpardonable Sin, than unjustly, without Foundation, or even without the fullest Proof, to take from a Man a Jewel of such Preciousness and Value?

Would not he that is possessed of it, be rather robbed of all he is worth, nay even of his Life?

What then do Libels and Invectives do?

Are they not Stabs in the Dark? Wounds to the Characters of Men, whilst the Hand that gives them lies concealed?

If they wound a virtuous Man, is it not an Injury to Society, and worse than Murder to him? And, if they fall upon a vicious Person, do they not rather provoke the Vice, and rather harden, than correct the Man?

Does not true Correction, lye in attacking the Vices and the Follies of Men? Is it not Defamation to attack the Person?

Does he who writes an Invective, or a Libel against a Man, do it with a

View either to reform him, or to serve the Publick? Or does he not write it, to disturb the Quiet, and destroy the Peace of another?

Is it not against every Rule and Dictate of Religion, Humanity, and Charity, either to write, to print, or to encourage a Libel?

Is it not the Golden Rule of Religion, Virtue, and Morality, that Men should do unto others, as they would they should do unto them? And does he who writes a Libel, act according to this Rule?

Does he who writes against the Man, and not against his Crimes, his Follies, or his Errors, ever prove more than his own Envy, and the others Superiority?

Will an evil hearted Libeller stick at Invention, when he has not Truth to tell? And if so, what Character is safe?

Why should not Truth lose its Force in an Invective, as it does in a Panegyrick?

Can

Can there be such an evil Disposition in the Nature of Man, as to believe Evil of his Fellow-creatures rather than Good ?

Are we not taught by our Religion, and by every Law, political, and moral, to be subservient to that Government by which we are protected ?

Would it not be a Sin of the blackest Dye, to inflame the People without Cause, but to serve private Purposes ; and to teach them to despise their Governors and Rulers ?

Should that happen to be the Case in any State, or Society, would not Disobedience to the Laws, of course, ensue, and the End be Confusion and Anarchy, and the total Ruin of that Society ?

Are not private Connections, Misrepresentations, and false Insinuations as to Matters of Government, as dangerous in a State as Bribery and Corruption are ?

Does not the Peace and Happiness, nay, the very Being of every Society, depend upon a mutual Confidence and Harmony,

Harmony, between those who govern, and those who are governed? And ought any Attempt to be made to break, or even in the least to interrupt this necessary Confidence and Harmony, but upon the strongest Certainty of a real Cause for it?

Where Libels are wrote all on one Side of the Question, and none on the other, on which Side, must reasonable, unprejudiced Men conclude the Superiority to be?

Would any Nation, or People, have it thought, that their Opinion or Esteem, could be changed, or in the least affected by the poisoned Breath of every scurrilous Libeller?

Are Forms and Ceremonies worth contending for, when Essentials may be hurt by the Contest?

